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Waterfowl

JOB COMPLETION REPORT

INVESTIGATIONS PROJECTS

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FEDERAL AID IN WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACT

FALL AND WINTER WATERFOWL ACTIVITY AT GAVINS POINT IMPOUNDMENT IN NORTHEASTERN NEBRASKA

Pittman-Robertson Project W-15-R

Job No. 19-55

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Report for the period

October 3 to November 25, 1955

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FALL AND WINTER WATERFOWL ACTIVITY AT GAVINS POINT IMPOUNDMENT IN NORTHEASTERN NEBRASKA

by Raymond Linder

ABSTRACT

Field observations were made between October 3, 1955 and November 25, 1955. Counts on October 3 showed 2250 ducks and 37 Canada-type geese; counts on October 13, totaled 300 ducks and 85 Canada-type geese. An estimated 7000 waterfowl were seen on November 17 and 25. Most birds fed in South Dakota.

Forty-five hunters interviewed had bagged 87 ducks and no geese.

JOB COMPLETION REPORT

INVESTIGATIONS PROJECTS

State of Nebraska

Project No. W-15-R Job No. 19-55

Title of Job: Fall and Winter Waterfowl Activity at Gavins Point Impoundment in Northeastern Nebraska

Objectives: To determine fall build-up of migratory waterfowl and the daily and seasonal activities of the waterfowl using the impoundment.

Procedure: Field observations were made between October 3, 1955 and November 25, 1955.

Counts of waterfowl were made on October 3 and 13, from an outboard motor boat furnished by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the company of a waterfowl biologist with the Corps of Engineers and a South Dakota Conservation Officer. All other counts were made from scattered points along the reservoir. Their distribution was determined by the location of access roads.

Findings: The date on which observations were made and the estimated numbers of ducks seen by the investigator are shown in Table I. Only the counts of October 3 and 13 represent a somewhat complete count. The remainder are estimates made on limited areas of the reservoir.

Table I. Waterfowl observed on Gavins Point Reservoir between October 3 and November 25, 1955

Date of Observation	Ducks	Canada-type geese	Snow geese
Oct. 3	2250*	37	--
13	350*	85	--
15	450	70	17
19	---	200	--
24	1600	700	--
25	500	125	--
Nov. 1	3000	--	--
3	6000	--	--
4	3000	--	--
12	5000	350	--
14	5000	1	--
17	7000	12	--
25	7000	--	--

*Counts made from outboard motor boat.

JOB COMPLETION REPORT

INVESTIGATIONS PROJECTS

State of Nebraska

Project No. W-12-R Job No. 18-12

Title of Job: Fall and Winter Waterfowl Activity as Gauging Point Improvement in Northeastern Nebraska

Objectives: To determine fall build-up of migratory waterfowl and the daily and seasonal activities of the waterfowl using the impoundment.

Procedure: Field observations were made between October 3, 1955 and November 25, 1955.

Counts of waterfowl were made on October 3 and 12. From an outboard motor boat furnished by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the company of a waterfowl biologist with the Corps of Engineers and a Game Refuge Conservation Officer. All other counts were made from sections points along the reservoir. Their distribution was determined by the location of access roads.

Findings: The date on which observations were made and the estimated numbers of ducks seen by the investigator are shown in Table 1. Only the counts of October 3 and 12 represent a somewhat complete count. The remainder are estimates made on limited areas of the reservoir.

Table 1. Waterfowl observed on Gavins Point Reservoir between October 3 and November 25, 1955

Date of Observation	Ducks	Canada-type Geese	Snow Geese
Oct. 3	2250*	37	—
12	350*	65	—
15	450	70	17
17	—	200	—
24	1600	700	—
25	500	125	—
Nov. 1	3000	—	—
3	6000	—	—
4	3000	—	—
12	5000	350	—
14	3000	1	—
15	7000	12	—
25	7000	—	—

*Counts made from outboard motor boat.

On October 3, there were 1400 teal, 500 pintails, 350 mallards and 37 Canada-type geese. Most of these waterfowl were gone on the first day of the 1955 waterfowl hunting season, October 8. On October 13, there were 26 gadwalls, 4 scaup, 2 pintails, 3 bluewings, 2 redheads, 245 mallards, 68 unidentified ducks and 85 Canada-type geese. There were also about 2500 coot.

Geese that came into the reservoir usually left within a day or two after arrival. On October 24, 700 geese were seen to arrive in the late afternoon, however, by the following day most had left.

In most cases birds leaving the reservoir to feed followed the South Dakota shoreline and entered South Dakota. However, on November 14, large flocks of ducks moved into Nebraska from the Devil's Nest Area to feed in cornfields 2 to 3 miles south of the reservoir. Also on that day, a flock of approximately 1000 ducks used the open water in the Bon Homme Island Area and fed in cornfields along the Nebraska side of the river.

Very little hunting was done on the reservoir during the season of 1955, particularly early in the season. On the opening day of the season only two hunters were seen on the reservoir. In 18 days of observation between October 8 and November 25, 67 hunters were seen. Of these, 45 were interviewed. They had bagged a total of 87 ducks. Table II shows the number of each species of duck bagged.

Table II. Ducks bagged by 45 hunters interviewed during the 1955 season

Species	Number bagged
Mallard	49
Greenwing teal	10
Bluewing teal	6
Scaup	5
Redhead	4
Shoveller	4
Pintail	3
Baldpate	3
Ruddy duck	2
Wood duck	1
Total	87

Recommendations: It is recommended that this be discontinued as an independent job.

Summary: Field observations were made between October 3, 1955 and November 25, 1955.

Two counts, October 3 and 13, were made from an outboard motor boat furnished by the Army Corps of Engineers. These counts showed

On October 3, there were 1400 teal, 700 pintails, 350 mallards and 37 Canada-type geese. Most of these waterfowl were gone on the first day of the 1955 waterfowl hunting season, October 8. On October 13, there were 36 redheads, 4 scaup, 2 pintails, 3 blue-winge, 2 redheads, 245 mallards, 68 unidentified ducks and 89 Canada-type geese. There were also about 2500 coot.

Geese that came into the reservoir usually left within a day or two after arrival. On October 24, 700 geese were seen to arrive in the late afternoon, however, by the following day most had left.

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Summary: Field observations were made between October 3, 1955 and November 25, 1955.

Two counts, October 3 and 13, were made from an outboard motor boat furnished by the Army Corps of Engineers. These counts showed

2250 ducks and 37 Canada-type geese on October 3 and 300 ducks and 85 Canada-type geese on October 13.

An estimated 7000 waterfowl were seen on the reservoir November 17 and 25.

Most birds fed in South Dakota.

In 18 days of observations 67 hunters were seen on the reservoir. Of these 67 hunters, 45 were interviewed; they had bagged 87 ducks and no geese.

Prepared by Raymond Linder
District Game Manager

Approved by Phil Agee
Project Leader

Date May 1, 1956

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